



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

November 18, 1997

H.R. 1658

Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act Amendments of 1997

As cleared by the Congress on November 13, 1997

H.R. 1658 would amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (the Striped Bass Act). The legislation would affect governmental receipts by increasing from \$1,000 to \$100,000 per violation the penalty for fishing for striped bass in state waters (zero to three miles offshore) when a federal moratorium is in effect. CBO expects that any collections from this penalty would total less than \$500,000 a year because federal moratoriums are rarely imposed. (Since the authority was first provided in 1984, a federal moratorium on fishing for striped bass in state waters has been imposed only once, for a six-day period in 1990 in New Jersey.) The act would maintain the current system of penalties for violating federal regulations governing fishing in federal waters.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Gary Brown. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.